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Russian Federation

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

New Restrictions on Moscow Customs Clearance Points for Imported Meat And Vegetables

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Report Highlights:

The Russian State Customs Committee issued Order No. 140, limiting the number of customs posts allowed to clear meat and vegetables destined for Moscow and the Moscow region. The order also specifies a limited number of cold storage facilities where these products may be temporarily stored. Delays during customs clearance are expected.

RESTRICTIONS ON POINTS OF CUSTOMS CLEARANCE IN MOSCOW

On February 9, 2001, the Russian State Customs Committee (SCC) issued Order No. 140, "On Points of Customs Clearance for Products Which Need Special Conditions of Storage." The order restricts points of entry for meats and products listed under chapter 2 of the Harmonized Tariff System Code, including poultry, and certain vegetables needing special cold storage conditions. It was published in Rossiiskaya Gazeta on March 20, 2001, and will come in force one month after publication.

Order No. 140 cancels SCC Order No. 597, issued on July 14, 2000 "On Points of Customs Clearance for Poultry Imported into Moscow and the Moscow Oblast", which restricted entry points for imported poultry meat (See GAIN report RS0053). The new restrictions expanded the list of affected commodities, and will specifically affect all imports under chapter two of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (meat and edible meat offal); chapter seven heading 0710 (vegetables: including cooked, uncooked, and frozen); and chapter 20 heading 2004 (other vegetables: prepared, preserved other than by vinegar or acetic acid, and frozen). According to the order, truck shipments of all these products to Moscow must enter by one of the five customs posts listed in table 1 below:

Table 1: Clearance Posts for European Meat and Vegetables affected by Order No. 140

Code of the Customs Office	Name of Customs Office
05878	Izhorskii Customs Post, of North Moscow customs
22821	Solnechnogorsk Customs Post
26603	Kolomna Customs Post
24614	Podolsk Customs Post
22919	Shchelkovo Customs Post

Source: Rossiiskaya Gazeta, March 20, 2001

According to Order No. 140, the customs offices indicated in Table 2 may permit temporary storage of commodities only in the 14 designated temporary cold storage facilities listed in Table 2 below:

Table 2: Designated Warehouses for Temporary Storage According to Order No. 140

Name of Temporary Warehouse
OAF "Cherkizovskii meat processing plants"
OAF TD "Preobrazhenskii
OAF "Ostankino meat processing plants"
OAF "Moscow cold storage #9"
AO PKP "Meridian"
OAF "Moscow cold storage #7"
OAF "Tsaritsino"
OAF "Bikom"
OAF "Terminal-Service"
MUP "Schelkovo Custom Warehouse"
OAF "Kolomna cold storage"
OAF "Zhukovskii cold storage"
OOO "Tolbino Terminal"
OAF "Naro-Fominsk cold storage"

Source: Rossiiskaya Gazeta, March 20, 2001

Why The SCC Created Order No. 140

According to the SCC, Order No. 140 will strengthen the safety of imported meat and vegetables by insuring that these products are stored in warehouses which have adequate cold storage. However, many importers complain that because the order expanded the previous list of commodities subjected to these “special conditions” import procedures will become more complicated and restrictive.

The Impact of State Customs Order No. 140

According to some importers, Order No. 140 will delay the customs clearance process for Moscow and the Moscow region. If customs posts send Moscow shipments to one of the warehouses designated for temporary storage (WTS), some 100 trucks will be waiting in line daily because these warehouses usually have small storage capacity. Thus, restrictions under Order No. 140 are expected to cause long lines of trucks awaiting clearance and storage space. Furthermore, the designated WTS's are situated far away from the designated customs clearance points. Consequently, it will be difficult to obtain veterinary and sanitary inspection at the WTS and then return to the customs clearance point.

In addition, the order will create special privileges for selected cold storage facilities.